**Divorce: A Christian Perspective**

***Why does God allow divorce?***

1. Hardness of people’s hearts
2. This is not God’s plan; He intends marriage to last a lifetime
3. God never commands divorce
4. God allows divorce because some people cannot forgive an immoral spouse and others will not change their immoral ways

***What does “divorce” mean?***

Biblical words for divorce mean…

1. To cut
2. To drive away or cast out
3. To separate

***Legal grounds for divorce***

1. Old Testament
   1. Lack of virginity (Deut. 22)
   2. Indecency (literally nudity which implies sexual impurity) (Deut. 24)
2. New Testament
   1. Sexual immorality (Matt. 5 & 19)
   2. Desertion (1 Cor. 7)
3. There are no statements to support other reasons!

***Basic causes of divorce***

1. Mankind’s basic desire to be god and have absolute control
2. An inability/unwillingness to accept differences between the sexes
3. An inability/unwillingness to forgive

***Why does God limit divorce?*** (since we are sinful and imperfect)

1. Without God’s limits, we probably would not limit ourselves.
2. God’s word says that marriage is a picture of His relationship with the church and when we choose not to abide by his standards we tarnish his reputation

***Is remarriage permissible?***

1. When the ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spouse divorces because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the other spouse.
2. When a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spouse has been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by an unbelieving spouse.
3. What about Christians who divorce without biblical justification?
   1. Some say they can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ remarry. (This view seems to make the sin \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.)
   2. Some say they can remarry \_\_\_\_ (and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) their ex-spouse remarries.
   3. Some say they can remarry if they are truly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***How should the church deal with divorce?***

1. Divorce is not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_!
2. There is no problem when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ standards apply
3. People divorced for reasons other than biblically sanctioned ones should not hold \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ positions. (This is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in some places.)

***Should people be treated differently based on the reasons for divorce?***

1. Those who are “innocent” of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should not face additional consequences.
2. Those who have sinned should face \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ just like others who sin (Matthew 18).

***How is society affected?***

1. Individuals
   1. No one is left \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. Many people lose a sense of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   3. Many become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at others and even at God (for not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their marriage).
2. Families
   1. Many single-parent families live at or below \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after divorce
   2. Many children are forced (explicitly or implicitly) to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between their parents.
   3. Children receive conflicting messages about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, etc.
3. The Church
   1. It causes conflict because not everyone treats the issue the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. It brings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from many outside the church.
   3. It causes people to be labeled as “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

***Society’s effect on Christians***

1. The average \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ does not view divorce any differently than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Many view it as an easy, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ solution to a difficult situation.
3. With divorce so common, many churches do not deal with its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Many cheapen God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by going ahead with sin because He is a “God who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” They forget that God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ those he loves (Hebrews 12:6-12).

***This issue must be faced***

1. All churches are affected by divorce
2. The world encourages the idea that divorce is an easy solution to a “bad” situation.
3. The church needs to help couples…
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for marriage
   2. Maintain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ marriages